

## COAL STRUCK BORING FOR OIL

**Coal Two Feet Thick at Depth of 130 Feet at Five Forks, Marlboro County**

Clo, April 29.—The oil well is progressing finely. Various and sundry strata are encountered. The latest and most interesting was on Saturday when at a depth of about 130 feet coal was encountered. Mr. McCoy informed me that he judged the thickness to be about two feet.

Oil may not be found at this spot, but it will assuredly lead to research and development that will ultimately mean much for this section. We do not know what is underneath the surface.

### Some Additional Information

Since the information was given on Saturday I have learned that the city of Greenville has issued, without a single dissenting vote, the sum of \$250,000 for a high school building.

The teacher shortage has become so acute and the demand for additional school room is so great that the matter has become a question of national investigation. The Chambers of Commerce throughout America have been asked to report the status of affairs and to let it be known what is being done in every community of the United States to meet these two great demands and successfully to pass this crisis in the development of education in the United States.

In discussing the tuition fees for the pupils in the classes below the high school the fact that a month ago the Board of Education had decided to charge \$30 per annum for each pupil from the country in a class below the high school was omitted. Any patron who lives in the country and owns property in the city will be allowed to deduct the amount of his city educational tax from the amount of his tuition fees.

An effort has been made to give all information desired. When the personnel of the Board of Education is considered, it must be concluded that not a single member would ask for a tax beyond what is absolutely necessary.

The election will take place on Thursday of this week and the members of the board will manage the election in front of the opera house. Respectfully submitted, S. H. EDMUNDS, Superintendent.

## COTTON LETTER

(John F. Clark & Co.)

New Orleans, May 3.—Cotton ruled higher on unfavorable weather. Journal of Commerce unfavorable reports on several states and American cotton association predictions of decreased acreage. The map showed heavy rains in Georgia and the forecast was for showers east. The buying was widely scattered while Japanese interests appeared to be the largest sellers. General business was light and neither bulls nor bears exhibited any aggressiveness. The crop is generally conceded to have a rotten start, consequently few care to sell short while on the other hand, quotations for new crop months so early in the season look pretty high to the average speculator. Exports were 20,000, Saturday, and 9,500 today. No cotton arrived in New York Saturday or today. The market acted today as though it might mark time between 35 and 36 cents for October, awaiting developments.

## NEW YORK COTTON.

	Open	High	Low	Close
May	40.49	40.50	40.25	40.45
July	38.15	38.45	38.00	38.25
Oct.	35.65	36.00	35.52	35.70
Dec.	34.88	35.20	34.80	34.95
Jan.	34.60	34.75	34.40	34.50
Mar.	34.05	34.19	33.70	33.85

## NEW ORLEANS COTTON

	Open	High	Low	Close
May	32.40	32.50	32.30	32.40
July	32.40	32.50	32.30	32.40
Oct.	35.50	35.76	35.30	35.52
Dec.	34.85	34.98	34.60	34.80
Jan.	34.50	34.64	34.22	34.40
Mar.	32.90	33.91	32.70	32.82

## CHICAGO GRAIN AND PROVISIONS

	High	Low	Close
May	1.80	1.76	1.79
July	1.68	1.65	1.68

## GATS:

	High	Low	Close
May	1.06	1.03	1.06
July	91.5	89.5	90.7

## LARD:

	High	Low	Close
May	20.75	20.55	20.62

## RIBS:

	High	Low	Close
May	18.85	18.37	18.49

### Bishopville Bonds Sold.

The bonds for paving Main street and as many more till the money gives out, were taken by J. H. Helmsman & Co. of Atlanta. \$52,000 was realized for the \$55,000 with interest at 6 per cent. Work will commence just as soon as the contract is let and material obtained.

### Reception

All members of the Civic League and the presidents of all organizations of women in Sumter are invited to attend a reception to be given on Wednesday, May 5, at 6 p. m., at 232 Church street, in honor of some of the Federation officers attending the Reunion. It is hoped that the club women will be present in large numbers to meet our attractive visitors.

## TEMPORARY TRUCE IN ANATOLIA

**Turks and Greeks Face Each Other Under Arms But No Fighting**

Constantinople, May 1.—Quiet is reigning momentarily in Anatolia, where Turkish Nationalist troops are under arms. The Greeks are holding their line in Aidin.

## MISTAKEN FOR ANARCHISTS

**Harvard University Club Parade Causes Commotion In Washington**

Washington, May 1.—The Harvard clubs, meeting here, caused a commotion when they were mistaken for a Red May Day parade while passing along the streets en route to Annapolis, with the Harvard crimson pennants on their autos.

## STRIKE IN ROCHESTER

**Street Car Traffic Suspended by Strike for Ninety Per Cent Wage Increase**

Rochester, N. Y., May 1.—Street car traffic is at a standstill here, employees having struck, notwithstanding their agreement to arbitrate differences respecting their demand for a ninety per cent wage increase.

## County Democratic Convention

The Sumter County Democratic Convention met at 12:30 o'clock today in the Court House with a quorum of the elected delegates present, and the usual routine business was transacted. It was however, one of the smallest conventions in point of attendance that has been held in Sumter county in many years. Omitting the convention roll and the text of the resolutions adopted, which will be printed in full later, the proceedings of the convention, in brief summary, were as follows:

The meeting was called to order by County Chairman J. H. Clifton and the roll of clubs called, the roll of delegates completed. It being ascertained that a quorum was present the convention was organized by adoption of a resolution re-electing all the officers by acclamation: President, J. H. Clifton; Secretary, H. G. Ostern; Assistant Secretary, L. F. Wood.

Mr. R. I. Manning introduced a series of resolutions, which after discussion and amendment were adopted by unanimous vote.

Mr. John H. Clifton was elected Member of the State Executive Committee by acclamation. Mr. R. I. Manning, who has served Sumter County in this position for many years, having stated that he could not accept re-election.

Nominations for delegates to the State Convention were called for. On motion it was decided that the eight nominees receiving the greatest number of votes be declared the delegates and the next eighteen in order be declared the alternates.

The following were elected by ballot:

Delegates, J. H. Clifton, L. D. Jennings, R. I. Manning, A. K. Sanders, E. E. Aycock, D. D. Moise, R. B. Belser, H. D. Tindal.

Alternates, Stanyarne Burrows, H. G. Ostern, C. J. Jackson, M. L. Parler, E. S. Booth, W. L. McCutchen, E. W. Dabbs, Jr., T. J. Kirven.

By motion Mr. R. I. Manning was named as chairman of the delegation. Mr. J. H. Clifton was re-elected Chairman of the County Executive committee.

Several of the clubs having failed to re-organize on the day appointed for that purpose, a motion was adopted that the said clubs be permitted and authorized to reorganize and that the officers elected at such reorganization be directed to report to the County Chairman.

On motion of Mr. Geo. D. Levy the convention endorsed Mr. L. D. Jennings as delegate at large to the National Democratic Convention at San Francisco. On motion Dr. E. S. Booth was endorsed as an alternate for the Seventh District to the National Democratic Convention.

The Convention then adjourned. A brief meeting of the County Executive Committee was held, but no business was transacted. Chairman Clifton announced that a meeting of the Executive Committee would be held on the first Monday in June, at which time the arrangements for the campaign will be made.

### Reunion Notes.

The committee on homes for the Confederate Veterans request all who agreed to entertain veterans to be ready to receive them anytime on Tuesday, for a few will arrive on the Tuesday morning trains. The large majority, however, will arrive on the Tuesday afternoon trains, with some coming in on Wednesday morning and afternoon. This is important.

Dinner will be provided both days for the veterans, but the hosts must be prepared to serve their guests with breakfasts and suppers in their homes.

All committees are hard at work on their jobs and if the good people of Sumter will cooperate we will be proud of the fact that we helped to make the reunion at Sumter the very best ever held.

### When We Have a Bargain.

To offer we want you to know it. So come in and get an all-wool, blue serge suit at \$33.95. Just a few left. Be on time. Joseph M. Chandler. Sizes 35 to 42.—Adv.

## BENILLAX NOT A CANDIDATE

**Mexican Ambassador Prefers His Safe Job In Washington**

Laredo, May 1.—Ygnacio Benillax, Mexican ambassador to Washington, has renounced his candidacy for the Mexican presidency, believing that his services as a diplomat are needed, according to Mexico City newspapers.

## STRIKE IN NOVA SCOTIA

**Miners Quit Work On Account of Imprisonment of Winnipeg Leaders**

Toronto, May 1.—Twelve thousand miners in the Sydney Nova Scotia district have struck against the imprisonment of the leaders in the Winnipeg general strike last year.

## MR. DABBS SOUNDS ALARM

**Sees Danger in McMahan's Wine and Beer Restoration**

Salem, Black River, April 30, 1920. To The Editor of the Daily Item:

Monday's State had an editorial on Mr. J. J. McMahan's wine and beer restoration that provided in the ward meeting last Saturday. I mailed to The State on Wednesday a short article commending its condemnation of this injection of liquor into the campaign, and urged that the county convention next Monday be sure to send only such delegates to the State Convention as will declare themselves unambiguously against the letting down of a single bar.

This article may have been lost in the mails, and I trust you will give space in this evening's Item for this communication. Very few with whom I have talked noticed the editorial account of the Columbia ward meeting and without forewarning the county convention may send men who will play into the hands of the reactionaries and give to Governor Edwards and Gov. Smith some backing in the National Convention.

I have no fear that they will win in that convention because they have William Jennings Bryan to reckon with. And however, some may sneer at Mr. Bryan, he is a weighty force in the Democratic party and the nation.

But I do not want him to have to bear the brunt of the fight in San Francisco. I want South Carolina to send a delegation that will stand squarely with him and I want Sumter county to lead off with a sound delegation Monday.

E. W. Dabbs.

## BAN ON POTATOES

**Congress of Women's Clubs Fighting the High Cost of Living**

Pittsburgh, May 1.—Twelve thousand members of the congress of women's clubs have pledged themselves to wear only staple clothing until prices drop and to place a two weeks ban on potatoes.

## AVIATORS OBSERVE ECLIPSE OF MOON

New York, May 2.—The eclipse of the moon tonight was observed here by Lieut. J. H. Tilton and W. H. Cushing, of the Rockaway Beach Naval Air Station, at a height of nearly three and one half miles. The two men ascended in a navy hydroplane, remaining in the air one and one half hours. The observations were made at the direction of the Navy Department.

### Spring Is Here!

Old Winter, dreary, cold, and bare, has left us once again: No more he casts his chilling gloom o'er fields or birds or men; The old year's leaves from off the trees have fallen brown and dead; By winter's rains no longer are the rushing torrents fed.

But golden morning sunbeams swiftly climb the eastern hill. The earth is brightly jeweled with the dewdrops clear and still; The bursting buds unfold in haste to deck their mother trees. The new-born leaves swing gently in the balmy southern breeze.

Spontaneous bursts of melody the little birdies sing. As thru the woodlands full and sweet their mating calls they ring. All nature's thousand joyous tongues uniting now declare That Winter, bleak and drear, is gone—that spring is truly here!

Yes, merry Spring is here, with all its songs of gladness gay. Its grasses green, its beautiful flowers blooming by the way. Its rising hope, its deepening love, its visions true and bright—Blest Spring has come to fill the earth with music, joy and light!

—Ernest C. Kolb, Bethel School

### Economy Club.

Greenville, May 2.—Interest in Greenville's Economy Club, which is to be organized on May 10, is growing, and it is expected that many will join when the buttons and pledge cards are received. The members of the club are to pledge themselves to practice right economy in all things until December 1.

## ANARCHISTS HELD IN CHECK

**Federal Officials and City Authorities Took Precautions to Prevent Disorder**

Washington, May 1.—Forewarned by the Department of Justice that they would be held responsible for the maintenance of order, the officers of every city were prepared to act at the first sign of disorder instigated by radicals. Reports continued to arrive during the morning that communist agitators were still trying to arouse workers to a May Day show of their power, but no reports of violence had reached officials.

## CHICAGO RENT STRIKE

**Tenants Refuse to Move or Pay Exorbitant Rent**

Chicago, May 1.—Thousands of families went on a rent strike today and refused to vacate their apartments in accordance with May Day moving orders. The tenants refuse to pay exorbitant rent rates.

## NO OUTBREAK IN PARIS

**Workers' May Day Celebration Passed off Quietly**

Paris, May 1.—Complete calm reigned in Paris today, the workers' May Day celebration being very orderly.

## BLAME FOR PRICE OF PRINT PAPER

**Placed on Brokers, Jobbers and Small Manufacturers**

Washington, April 29.—Blame for the price of print paper was placed primarily upon small manufacturers, brokers and jobbers, although publishers themselves were held partly to blame by witnesses today before a Senate investigating committee. Curtailed consumption, in order to break the spot market pending increased production, was generally advocated as a remedy.

Seven witnesses were heard by the committee, all of whom virtually agreed that the reduced production of paper due to lack of understanding between the publishers and manufacturers together with the rapid increase in advertising since the war had resulted in a situation of which the brokers and jobbers had taken advantage. Because of the prevailing high prices the witnesses said manufacturers of paper specialties had been enticed into the manufacture of print paper which had served to aggravate the situation. The witnesses urged that newspapers should confine consumption of paper to the amount provided in their contracts and remain out of the open market.

M. F. Hanson, general manager of The Philadelphia Record, appeared for all the Philadelphia newspapers testified that publishers had been victims of "unconscionable profiteering" while W. E. Carpenter, publisher of the Lincoln, Ill., Courier Herald, said unless relief was provided without delay many smaller daily publications would be compelled to suspend. He declared there was plenty of print paper in storage, but it was controlled by about sixty publishing firms and small publishers were unable to reach it.

## BOY SHOT AT TEACHER

**Georgia High School Boy Fires Five Shots at Principal**

Chattanooga, May 1.—Jackson Carter, a student of the Summerville, Ga., High School was arrested yesterday for firing six shots at his teacher, Professor Ransom, as the latter left the school house. Prof. Ransom escaped injury owing to the bad aim of the boy. The shooting is said to have been in revenge for a severe thrashing.

## SOME DEFINITE INFORMATION

**Additional Information Relative to the Proposed Levy for Schools**

An interested taxpayer has very courteously asked for some definite information relative to several matters pertaining to the proposed additional levy for school purposes. Of course, it is a real pleasure to answer these inquiries, and as there are others who are interested I shall take this public means of answering his letter.

Let me say at the outset that expert accountants audit the financial books of the schools each year and the report is published. The same practice will be adhered to at the close of this year, when accurate reports must be made as always to our State and National departments of education.

To pay all the expense of the schools, all salaries, wages, fuel, power, lights, repairs, additions, and equipment will require this year approximately \$72,000. The treasurer, Mr. E. H. Rhame, has estimated that the expenses and income practically balance. No surplus. Sumter is very fortunate in this respect, for I know of three school systems that will begin the next scholastic year with an indebtedness of from \$9,000 to \$15,000. Thanks to Sumter's citizenship Sumter's school district has had no indebtedness for current expenses at the end of the scholastic year for many years.

For next year the Board of Education proposes by the additional levy to increase the salaries of the teachers and principals, to remodel, modernize, and enlarge the present Washington school building and to give more room at the Lincoln school building. This the Board hopes to do without a bond issue and these improvements are to be taken care of year by year with a part of the proceeds of the additional levy. Of course, by far the greatest proportion of the proceeds will be used for increasing the salaries of the teachers and principals (as shown elsewhere) and providing the necessary additional teachers. But both the white schools and colored schools are crowded out of doors. Every available square foot of space has been utilized, additional rooms have been added in basement, and by cutting up the different auditoriums. Additional space is imperative and the Board is obliged to provide it. Why do any building now? Because the decrease cost will be so sudden as to enable the taxpayers to receive the direct benefit; or the decrease will be so slow that it would be entirely unjust to deprive our children of school room for so long a time.

The minimum salary for the white schools last year, including the \$100 given for the prolonged session and to meet the increased expenses, was \$910; the standard grade salary, including the same amount as above, \$985. The minimum high school salary, including the \$100, was \$1,009 and the standard salary was \$1,020.

The City Board of Education, composed of Doctor J. A. Mood, Mr. Neil O'Donnell, Mr. Mitchell Levi, Mr. W. Percy Smith, and Mr. Bartow Walsh, studied conditions here and elsewhere for a long time before reaching any conclusion. After the most careful consideration, the Board adopted the following schedule of salaries:

For grades, \$1,200 and \$1,300; for the High School, \$1,300 and \$1,400. The principals last year received salaries as follows: including the \$100 as above, \$1,100; \$1,300, \$1,500 and \$1,900. The Board proposes to increase these salaries \$200 or \$250. The salary schedule for the negro school has not been arranged.

If practicable, the Board is very desirous of adding some men teachers to the faculty of the Boys' High School.

The Schools have needed all the money that has been provided in order to be properly maintained, and it would have been impossible to give the teachers any additional amount this year for the prolonged session, had it not been for the money given the High Schools by the State Department of Education. The Board has made a very careful calculation as to the amount of money that will be needed for next year, and has asked that this amount of money be voted by the people of this city. Every community in the State thus far seems to be responding admirably to the demands of the present crisis. The examples of Florence, Greenwood and Rock Hill have already been given.

In today's paper I notice that Branchville has voted for a bond issue for school purposes and has unanimously added an additional levy of seven mills for school purposes. The people everywhere are realizing, as never before, that the schools must be provided for and that adequate salaries must be paid if the organization of the schools is to be maintained. The Board confidently expects the people of Sumter to back them now as they have always done.

In the primary and elementary schools are about seventy-five pupils from the country. These are scattered throughout twenty-four classrooms, an average of about three to the room. The tuition charge has been \$13.50 for each pupil, allowing anyone who has property in the city to deduct the amount of his educational tax from his tuition fees. This is in accordance with the law.

There are over 1250 pupils in the white schools, 350 being in the high schools. Scattered as these pupils are from the country, they do not materially affect the number of teachers or the number of classrooms.

In the high schools there are about ninety pupils from the country, divided among six pupils to the teacher. The legislature realizing the advantages of a central high school has provided a State fund to take care of conditions of this sort and we shall receive from the State this year about \$5,000 to assist in the maintenance of our high schools. Nothing has done more to bring into closer relationship the country and the city than the fact that we have had so many boys and girls from the country. Anything that helps to induce people to come into Sumter for any purpose helps every interest within the city.

As the superintendent of your schools it is my duty, and I esteem it a privilege, to give all the information relative to these schools that may be desired and I feel confident that the people will continue to give to the schools their most cordial support.

Moreover, I know that the judgment of the City Board of Education may be safely relied upon. When several years ago the Board of Education asked for a bond issue, there were only two votes cast against it. If the will of these two negative votes had prevailed, Sumter would have been denied the inestimable benefit of building at the most favorable time that we shall see in this country for many years, and our schools would have received an irreparable setback. Trust the judgment of the Board of Education.

In addition to the salary increases there are some additional teachers that must be provided and some very essential improvements that should be made in our school buildings. We are crowded out of doors and the Board of Education is trying to do its best to avoid the necessity of a bond issue. In fact the Board has given to the whole question its most earnest and painstaking attention and its conclusions have been reached after the most mature deliberation. There is not a member of the Board that would ask a single taxpayer to bear an unnecessary burden. The members believe that the educational interests of the community deserve the most active co-operation of all citizens, that the schools should be maintained at a high degree of efficiency, and that the only way to do that is to attract and hold the best teachers.

Respectfully and cordially submitted, S. H. EDMUNDS, Superintendent.

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Respectfully and cordially submitted, S. H. EDMUNDS, Superintendent.

## MISSISSIPPI BARGE LINE

**St. Louis Ships 5,000 Tons To Memphis and New Orleans**

St. Louis, May 1.—Six barges carrying 5,000 tons of freight cleared today for Memphis and New Orleans. This is the largest shipment since the revival of barge traffic.

## BOLSHEVIKI CAPTURE BAKU

**Oil City On Caspian Sea Falls Into Hands of Radicals**

London, May 1.—Russian Bolshevik forces occupied Baku on Wednesday.

# L U M B E R

Flooring, Lumber, Brick, Building, Locks, Hinges, Nails, Hardware, Siding, Cement, Plaster, Grates, Paints, Oils, Lining, Fire Brick, Fire Clay, Material, Hatchets, Hammer, Door Hangers, Carpenter's Tools, Paint Brushes, Putty and Oils, Inside Decorations, Calumines and Cold Water Paints, Mouldings, Terra Cotta Thimbles, Mortar Colors and Stains, Water Proofing Mineral, Corrugated Metal Roofing, Asbestos and Composition Roofing, WIRE FENCING, IRON AND WOOD POSTS, Red Cedar Shingles, Pine and Cypress Shingles, Metal and Composition Shingles, Doors, Sash and Blinds, Porch Columns and Ballasters, Beaver Board, Valley Tin and Ridge Roll.

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